

Re: **Summary of the Borough-Based Jails Queens Advisory
Committee – Second Meeting**

Date: November 29, 2018 6:30 pm

Location: Queens Community House- Kew Gardens Community
Center - 80-02 Kew Gardens Road Kew Gardens, NY,
11415

Prepared by: Kathryn Kramer and Arnie Bloch

Perkins Eastman
Architects DPC

Attendees:

QAC Members

Murray Berger	Kew Gardens Civic Association
J. Carter	Kew Gardens Civic Association (sitting in for Steve Bell)
Claudia Chan	LaGuardia Community College
Sylvia Hack	Community Board #9
Seth Willens	Community Board #9 (sitting in for Andrea Crawford)
Rosemary Zins	Queensborough Community College

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Members of the Public

Alex Anderson	Councilmember Koslowitz's Office
Lauren Bellard	Silver Towers Owners
Henry Biglin	
Alfred Brand	Kew Gardens Civic Association
Andre Deazle	
John Dovyasz	New York City Council
Neil Duncan	
Malka Fraenkel	Kew Gardens Civic Association
Justin Wax Jacobs	Briarwood Speaks Up
D. Kaldor	
Maienne Molarski	Silver Towers
Lisa Marie Parker	
Richard Stone	
Robert Weston	Silver Towers

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Pittsburgh
San Francisco
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Stamford
Toronto
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City/Consultant Team

Arnie Bloch	FHI
Daniel Dickson	PE
Jessica Douglas	CAU
Chatodd Floyd	IGA
Dana Kaplan	MOCJ
Kathryn Kramer	Perkins Eastman
Lindsey Shields	DMOPS
Joseph Thomas	CAU
Nicole Torres	MOCJ

Key Action Items:

1. QAC members requested written answers to questions discussed at this meeting. City committed to providing written responses. In addition, QAC requested written responses to the following questions:
 - a. As an alternative, why wasn't a move of criminal court facilities to Rikers Island considered?
 - b. When would the Final Environmental Impact Statement be finalized?
 - c. Was Queens Community Board#9 sent the Draft Scope of Work?
2. City will consider adding representatives of Briarwood and Forest Hills to the QAC, including Community Board#9.

Major Themes from the QAC Members and Members from the Public:

- Strong desire to see more membership from Community Board #9, Forest Hills, and Briarwood on the QAC.
- There were several questions as to why other alternatives to the Queens jail site were not seriously considered. These included:
 - Long Island City near existing State court house (why not ask the State to convert existing court house in Long Island City into a criminal court?);
 - Jamaica near existing State court house (why not ask the State to convert existing court house in Long Island City into a criminal court?);
 - Ask the State to build a criminal court on Rikers Island;
 - Improve transportation to Rikers Island; and

- Create 5th jail site on Staten Island for better borough equity and means of potentially lowering the jail population in the other four proposed jail sites.
- There were some suggestions made for decreasing the size of Queens jail population, among them:
 - Only house those people in detention who have upcoming court dates; and
 - Redistribute Specialized Medical Annex population to all jail sites.
- QAC wanted to know how the jail population at the Queens facility would be comprised: by borough of residence or place of arrest. City responded that final operational and policy decisions have been made regarding the system by which individuals will be assigned to one of the four sites. That said, underlying the City's plan to create a modern, humane system is the goal of strengthening connections to families, communities and support networks. Therefore there will be a preference for housing individuals so that they can be closer to their community (borough of residence) to the extent that it's operationally feasible. This way people can maintain connections with their loved ones and support networks and can do better upon leaving and be less likely to return. We know that there are a number of factors that also need to be considered such as whether the individual has multiple cases in different boroughs, etc.
- QAC raised concerns about safety surrounding the jail site. City explained that the existing jail sites (Manhattan Detention Center and the Brooklyn House of Detention) do not see higher crime rates.
 - In the year the Brooklyn Detention Center reopened in 2012, the area experienced a steeper reduction in crime than any other precinct in Brooklyn North. Since then, the precinct has seen a 20% decrease in crime, compared to 14% citywide. Similarly, index crime in the precinct of the existing Manhattan Detention Center declined by 79% since the facility was completed in 1990.
- Fire prevention potential and evacuation plans were addressed by the City in response to the QAC's concerns.